

Appl. No. 10/657,543  
Response dated January 4, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 4, 2004

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawings are attached.

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### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2004. Claims 1-51 are pending in the application. The Examiner notes that claims 1-19 and 26-45 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner indicates that claims 20-25 and 46-51 are rejected. The Examiner objects to the drawings. New drawings are being filed herewith.

The Examiner objects to claim 20 because of the phrase "or the like". That phrase has been deleted by a deletion of the phrase "such as a manhole, catch basin, well or the like". Therefore, the claim now is directed to any ground opening.

The Examiner objects to claims 20 and 46 because of the phrase "removable from the shroud only by using the key." The word "only" has been deleted from claims 20 and 46 in response to the rejection.

The Examiner indicates that claims 20-25 and 46-51 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Hurlburt.

Each of the independent claims 20 and 46 has been amended to point out that the lid provides an upper surface, a lower surface, and the second interlocking structure has been amended to be inclusive of a lock having a locking member. In step "c" of claim 20, the claim has been amended to state that the key is used to unlock the lock and release the second interlocking structure from the shoulder. For claims 20 and 46, the lock structure is claimed as being located next to the periphery of the lid and spaced from the first interlocking structure. These features are not seen in Hurlburt. Hurlburt does not position the locking member at the periphery of the lid because the locking member is defined as that structure that is unlocked with the key. The keyhole in Hurlburt is not located at the lid periphery but at the absolute center of the apparatus as shown in figure 1 where it is designated by the numeral 16. Hurlburt is more complicated, requiring linkage 12, 13, 14, 15 (see figure 4) between the key and lid periphery that applicant does not require.

Based upon the above comments, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

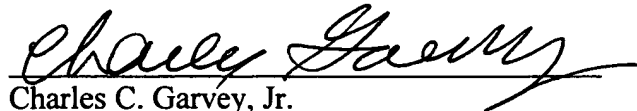
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 4 January 2005.

  
Charles C. Garvey, Jr.